



By the King.

A Proclamation for the well storing, and furnishing the Realme with Corne.



He Kings most Excellent Maiestie, obseruing that in the times of dearth, His louing Subiects, (especially the poozer sort,) are pinched With the great Want and deere prices of Corne, and that the Treasure of the Kingdome, in those times is much exhausted, in prouiding of Corne from forraine parts; and againe, that in the times of plenty, the Farmour and Husbandman, by the low prices, and Want of vent of their Corne, are hardly able to support their necessary charge, nor the Landlord to vphold his rent: And foreseeing, as well by reason, as by the example of forraine Nations, that these things may not onely in some good measure bee remedied, but also diuers benefits procured vnto the Common Wealth, (as the increase of Tillage, better venting of Our native commodities, strength to Our Shipping, and breeding of many Mariners) by erecting Magazins of Corne, which in times of scarcitie, may serue to keepe downe the price of forraine Corne, and in times of plenty, may keepe vp the price of Our home Corne, at such reasonable rates, as will well mainetaine the Husbandmans labour, and hold vp the Gentlemans rents: hath commanded the Lords of his Maiesties priue Counsaile, not onely to take the same into their owne serious consideration, but to vnderstand the opinion of diuers Gentlemen of qualitie and knowledge, and of the ablest & best experienced Merchants: All which hauing beene carefully, and effectually performed, His Maiestie, vpon deliberate aduice With his priue Counsaile, hath resolved, and doeth hereby signifie his Royall pleasure, that Magazins of Corne shall, and may bee erected, by such Merchants and others, as shall be willing to aduenture therein, in the Ports, and places hereafter mentioned: That is to say, London, Dover, Portsmouth, South-hampton, Bristoll, Excester, Plymouth, Ipswich, Linne, Yarmouth, Hull, Yorke, Newcastle, Chester, Lerpoole, and Hauerford West, and in all the Shire Townes of the Realme. And to the intent the said Magazins, may be stored With conuenient provision of Corne; His Maiestie is pleased, that it shall, and may bee lawfull, to and for any the Merchants, or other the Subiects of this his Realme, to import from forraine parts such quantities of Corne, as to them shall seeme good, to be stored, and laid vp in the said Magazins, paying to his Maiestie onely the Customes and Subsidies due for the same, according to the present Booke of rates, as hath beene heretofore accustomed to be paid, and no other wise.

And further, that all and euery person, and persons shall, and may, buy and prouide Within this Realme, for the storing, and furnishing of the said Magazins, such quantities of English Corne, as to them shall seeme good, at such times onely, as the most vsuall prices of English wheate shall bee, vnder thirtietwo shillings the quarter, English Rie vnder eightene shillings the quarter, and English Barley vnder sixteene shillings the quarter, respectiue, in the Countie Where the same shall bee bought and prouided. And for the better incouragement of such, as shall aduenture in the said Magazins, His Maiestie is well pleased, that all such forraine Corne, as shall be thither brought, may be freely sold and transported into any the parts beyond the Seas, being in League, or Amitie With his Maiestie, so as, at the time of such transportation, the rate and most vsuall price of English Corne in the three next adiacent Countie vnto the said Magazins, whence such transportation shall be, doe not

exceed fortie shillings the quarter of wheate, twentie five shillings eight pence the quarter of Rye, and twentie shillings the quarter of Barley, respectively. But whensoever the said severall pices of Corne shall exceed the rates last above mentioned, then all foraine Corne shall bee stored and kept within the said Magazines, and shall bee sold and vented onely within this Realme, for the provision of the same, and not else where.

And when as the most vsuall rate of English Corne shall be vnder thirty two shillings the quarter of wheate, eightene shillings the quarter of Rye, and sixteene shillings the quarter of Barley; Then no foraine Corne shall bee sold within this Realme, for any other purpose and intent, but onely to bee stored, and laid by in the said Magazines, or to bee transported into the parts beyond the seas, as aforesaid, (paying the due customes and subsidies for the English Corne) to the intent, the price of English Corne may bee held by, at some fitting proportion, for the benefit of the Farmer, and Husbandman, and that such Corne, so to bee transported, may produce, and returne a proportion of Coyne, for the replenishing of the Treasure of this Kingdome. And his Maiesties pleasure is, that no person, or persons, doing any thing according to the tenour of this his Royall Proclamation, shall bee therfore troubled, molested, or disquieted, by any action, suite, or information, vpon any Law, or Statute touching the ingrossing or transporting of Corne, or other penall Law to that purpose made: His Maiestie in his grace and fauour to his Subjects, and for the publique good, being contented to dispence with the penalties, and forfeitures thereof, in all the particulars above mentioned; but against all other offenders, not hereby dispenced with, the said Lawes, and Statutes shall be put in exact execution. And his further pleasure is, that all such foraine Corne, for which the duties first above mentioned, shall be paid vpon importation thereof, shall bee freed from the payment of any Custome, Subsidie, or Impost, whensoever the same shall bee againe exported by the first importer thereof, or by any other person, whether the property thereof bee altered, or not altered before the exportation thereof. And for auoiding all deceit, and abuse, contrary to the true meaning hereof, His Maiesties will and pleasure is, That no Corne hereafter be transported as foraine Corne, but vpon oath made in the Custome-house of the port, out of which the same shall bee transported, that the same Corne did not grow within this Realme: And that exact Registers, and bookes bee kept in euery severall Port, of all Corne, as well imported, as exported, and of the severall quantities thereof, and how much thereof is foraine, and how much English Corne, and by whom the same shall be either imported, or exported, and this to bee done freely without any fee or charge for doing thereof. And that it shall clearely appeare, that His Maiesties intention herein, is onely the good of his Subjects, His Maiesties expresse pleasure, and command is, that all Iustices of Peace, in euery of the severall Shires of the Kingdome, shall haue speciall care, that in case any abuse, or inconuenience shall grow by any of these Magazines, then presently to aduertise the Lords of His Maiesties Primate Councell thereof, that present redresse may be of any inconuenience that shall happen.

Given at the Court at Whitehall, the seuen and twentieth day of December, in the one and twentieth yere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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M. DC. XXIII.